# ORCAWALE 2001: Weekly Report for 11/15/01 to 11/21/01

### 21 November 2001: Jim Carretta

Leg 6 of the McArthur is well underway. Since departing midday on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we have had an abundance of common and striped dolphin in the south/western portion of the study area. The small boat has been launched twice, with 1 blue whale biopsy and 2 ID photos obtained. A group of sperm whales was uncooperative on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Weather has just started to deteriorate as we head NE towards San Nicolas Island tomorrow. Much of next week will be spent north of Point Conception.

Date	Time	Lat	Long	Trackline Miles	Avg Beauf
111501			W122:45.71 W123:04.10	15.0nmi	1.8
111601	0938	N38:10.74	W124:12.00 W124:52.02	65.5nmi	3.9
111701	0704	N36:07.41	W125:13.06 W125:44.01	95.5nmi	3.2
111801	0703	N34:02.80	W125:54.10 W126:18.34	71.4nmi	3.8
111901			W125:37.78 W123:49.55	81.4nmi	3.1
112001			W123:13.24 W121:57.43	59.2nmi	4.0
112101			W121:17.54 W119:31.73	75.6nmi	4.9
Code			Spec	cies To	ot#
13			striped	dolphin	3
17		short	beak common	dolphin	11
37				er whale	1
46			_	cm whale	2
70 75		ur	nidentified	rorqual 1e whale	1 1
73 77		unida	entified del		2
78			ntified smal	-	1
				TOTAL	22

## **Biopsy (Juan Carlos Salinas and Erin LaBrecque)**

Species	# Samples This Week	<b>Cumulative Total</b>
Balaenoptera musculus	1	11
Balaenoptera physalus	2	13
Delphinus capensis	5	5
Delphinus delphis	22	98
Dermochelys coriacea	0	1
Eschrictius robustus	0	3
Grampus griseus	4	5
Lagenorhyncus obliquidens	2	10
Lissodelphis borealis	8	31
Megaptera novaeangliae	0	15
Orcinus orca	0	3
Phocoenoides dalli	0	9
Physeter macrocephalus	0	10
Tursiops truncatus	7	10
Ziphius cavirostris	0	1
Grand Total	28	202

# **Photo-ID (Laura Morse and Annie Douglas)**

Delphinus delphis 2 schools

Physeter macrocephalus 1 distant individual

Blue whales 2 individuals Killer whales 1 group

## Oceanography (Pierre Malan)

Day	#CTDs	#XBTs	#Bongos	Notes
15 Nov	0	0	1	1 <sup>st</sup> day of Leg
16 Nov	1	4	1	
17 Nov	1	4	1	
18 Nov	1	4	1	
19 Nov	1	4	1	
20 Nov	1	4	1	
21 Nov	1	4	1	

#### Seabirds (Michael Force, Cornelia Oedekoven)

We have covered a fair amount of ocean since leaving San Francisco, but have little to show for our efforts. Mostly just the usual four species: Black-footed Albatrosses, Sooty Shearwaters, Red Phalaropes and Leach's Storm-Petrels, all in lower densities from previous weeks. We were expecting more Ashy Storm-Petrels. Perhaps those calling to have this species listed as a federally endangered species have a point. Definitely not threatened is Velella. We have seen uncountable millions of this pelagic jellyfish, often masquerading as Red Phalaropes (and vice versa!). Their slivery sails catch the light and trick desperate bird observers, staring too long and hard at a strip transect zone devoid of avian forms. In the far southwestern sector of the study area we have seen a few Red-tailed Tropicbirds. Fair seas, sunny skies and tropicbirds magically transport us to warm places far away...

#### **Acoustics (Shannon Rankin)**

In addition to her regular observer duties, Shannon is keeping the ORCAWALE acoustics program alive with sonobuoys, which were deployed on a group of killer whales and two blue whales. No vocalizations were obtained. The directional hydrophone was used from the small boat to help track a group of sperm whales on the 20<sup>th</sup> with good results, although no biopsies were obtained.